



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif
Gregory Berthiaume – arrived at 7:31 p.m.
Michael Mackin
Donna White
Colleen Shapiro

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Jen Markham

Guests

Scott Curtis, Judith Schenck, Louise Parent,
Timothy Santry, Michael Barney, John Londa, Lunenburg Football Boosters

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
 - * Recognition of School Retirees – Dr. Reif and Superintendent Calmes began the ceremony to recognize the following school retirees: Scott Curtis – high school tutor for 13 years of service; Louise Parent – School Accounting Services Manager for 25 years of service; Judith Schenck – Grade 3 teacher for 13 years of service. Jennifer Markham, LHS Student Representative to the School Committee, was also recognized for her service this year. Retirees were given a plaque, a personalized pen, and flowers as tokens of appreciation.
 - * Chairman's Report – Dr. Reif welcomed Mr. Mackin back to the school committee.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - April 27, 2011 Executive Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - May 4, 2011 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif
 - May 4, 2011 Executive Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif
 - * Review and Approve Warrants
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - We are moving into the final weeks of school.
 - There was a minor bus accident last week; no one was injured. Reminder to everyone to drive safely.
 - Each school hosted a wonderful Memorial Day program in their building. Guest speakers reminded everyone to take care of the families who are left behind in addition to those currently serving their country.
 - Graduation is ten days away – June 11. It will be held at the high school with Fitchburg State University as a back-up in case of inclement weather.
 - * Student Report – Ms. Markham reported that senior finals are this week. The prom will be held this Saturday at Mount Wachusett Community College. The girls softball game is scheduled for this Thursday.
 - * Public Comment – None.

*1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462
978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103*

* New Business

Action

- a. Proposed Donation – Lunenburg Football Boosters – Representatives from the Lunenburg Football Boosters Club addressed the School Committee. They would like to replace the two speakers in the press box booth on the high school athletic field, which do not always work well. There was some discussion around the current system and the vision for the future of the football field area. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the donation. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.
- b. School Improvement Plan – THMS – Mr. Santry presented the Turkey Hill School Improvement Plan to the School Committee. Mr. Santry reviewed each of the three goals of the plan. He highlighted key changes/updates to the plan and expounded on each. There was a discussion around how the economic downturn has affected the middle school. Mr. Santry responded that they are more often in the reactive mode because there is no assistant principal at the middle school. Also, with the elimination of a grade 8 teacher, the five remaining grade 8 sections will have 25 students per classroom. There was a discussion around SIP's across the district and how they relate to each other. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to approve the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.
- c. School Improvement Plan – Lunenburg High School – Mr. Barney commented on the very successful track season by both the boys and girls. He also thanked everyone involved in the senior activities. Next Thursday night is senior awards night with \$45,000 in scholarships being awarded. Mr. Barney thanked all of his advisory council members and then began his review of the Lunenburg High School School Improvement Plan touching on the highlights of changes and updates to the plan. Mr. Barney spoke in detail about the advisory homeroom system for next year. There was a discussion around how the economic downturn has affected the high school, which included class size and the ability for the English department to give writing feedback. There will be an average of 21 students per class for next year. Teachers would like to see their numbers much lower than that. AP English will run at 25 students; teachers would like to see it at 14. Mr. Barney can provide additional data points for Mr. Mackin. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval of the high school SIP. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.
- d. FY12 Washington DC – Initial Trip Approval – Mr. Santry requested initial permission for the FY12 Washington DC trip. He hopes to keep the cost the same as this year, which is \$695. The trip would be from May 29 to June 3. Seven scholarships were given this year. Superintendent Calmes recommended initial approval. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

Discussion

- a. Proposed Changes to Graduation Requirements – Mr. Barney stated that the high school would like to adopt the MASSCORE standards for graduation requirements. This includes a 4-year math requirement. He reviewed current statistics against the MASSCORE requirements. The class of FY11 is at 90 percent of the foreign language requirements. In math, the class of 2011 has 85 percent of its students achieving MASSCORE requirements. It will be critical to have the initial placement accurate. Superintendent Calmes stressed the importance of adopting the MASSCORE requirements. Additional sections of math will need to be added in the future. There was discussion around how to fund what/who is needed. The class of 2015 will be the first class affected.
- b. Tutors and Aides Contract – Superintendent Calmes reviewed the highlights of the MOA for the benefit of Mr. Mackin, newly elected school committee member. The superintendent talked about the budget gap and the \$30,000 gained from the tutors and aides contract. The School Committee members signed three copies of the contract, which had already been signed by representatives of the tutors and aides association.
- c. Non-affiliated Employees Benefits – FY12-FY14 – Superintendent Calmes reviewed who is covered under this document and the updates/changes to this agreement. Major portions are consistent with the aides and tutors agreement. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the tutors and aides for the leadership they have shown in negotiating an agreement during this difficult financial time. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval as submitted. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. White seconded a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation. Vote: unanimous.

* Old Business – None.

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* Public Comment – None.

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO
- e. Policy Sub-Committee
- f. Capital Planning Committee
- g. Health Advisory Committee
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Regional Planning Committee
- j. Rep. Benson's Advisory
- l. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

* Executive Session – None.

* Adjournment - At 8:52 p.m. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Shapiro seconded a motion to adjourn regular session. Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/25/21/mel